Applicants: Reininger et al.

Preliminary Amendment

Amdt. dated December 1, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In this Preliminary Amendment, U.S. format headings have been introduced into the

specification and the claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies. No new

matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing submission, examination of the present application on the

merits is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven T. Zuschlag

Registration No.: 43,309 Attorney for Applicants

HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP 6900 Jericho Turnpike

Syosset, New York 11791

(516) 822-3550 STZ/mf

197665_1